

CROSSSECTION



Spring

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LAKE SWCD TO HOLD SPECIAL ELECTION

Lake SWCD is holding a Special Election for Board Supervisor. Lake SWCD currently has one seat open for the Board of Supervisors. The election will be held in conjunction with our Tree Seedling Sale at the Lake County Fairgrounds Natural Resources Building on Friday April 13th, from 9:00am to 6:00pm. Candidates are Dwayne Bailey of North Perry and Skip Dugan of Perry.

Skip Dugan grew up on a nursery in Perry, where he attained a lifelong respect for the land and open spaces. He has served on the Lake County Environmental Education Advisory Board, and is currently the Operation Manager at Lake Metroparks Farmpark. Some summer days he can be seen kayaking with his wife Annie on various stretches of the Grand River, enjoying the pristine scenery and looking for eagles or turtles.

Dwayne Bailey is a Lake County native who has developed a special appreciation for the truly unique natural resources of the area. He has been the Service Director and Zoning Inspector for Mentor-on-the-Lake for 15 years and is the Zoning Inspector/Project Manager for North Perry Village. Dwayne's previous experiences include 8 years in air pollution control and 10 years in the US Navy. Dwayne and his wife Jo Ann work a small farm in Madison along with their three border collies.

For more information on the candidates, check out the Public Notices section of the Lake SWCD website.

Rain Barrel
Workshops
begin April
2nd! Sign up
at lakemetro
parks.com
and save
\$10

GREEN LAWN, CLEAN WATER
WAYS TO *GET* GREEN IN YOUR YARD,
KEEP GREEN IN YOUR POCKET, AND *STOP* GREEN
FROM GROWING IN LAKE ERIE
BETH LANDERS, COASTAL NON-POINT SOURCE
POLLUTION EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Sometimes we need to choose between our finances and our environmental concerns. Fortunately, maintaining your landscaping is someplace where you can save some green by going green, and at the same time help to keep our streams and ponds as well as Lake Erie from being congested with floating green mats of algae. Below are four things you can do around your house to save some money and have a positive impact on water quality.

Save on gasoline by mowing less often

Lawn impact - To reduce mowing frequency, you need to raise your mower deck. A closely-cropped lawn will actually use more energy trying to grow more grass blades to build up energy reserves. If you set the deck to 3-4" cutting height, the grass blades will grow more slowly, giving the roots a chance to reach deeper into the soil. This will improve soil texture and allow water to soak in more quickly during a rain storm. A tall lawn is a more durable lawn.

Wallet impact - Gasoline is expensive. The less often you have to mow, the less gas you have to buy. It also reduces hours on your mower's engine.

Environmental impact - For anyone who has spent a summer or two in northeast Ohio, you are well aware of Ozone Alert Days. Gasoline powered lawn equipment can create air pollution issues. In addition, reducing the frequency of mowing also reduces soil compaction. Every time a mower tire

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rolls over your lawn it can squeeze the pore spaces in the soil shut. Wet soils are even more prone to compaction. Compacted soils do not allow rain to soak in as quickly, which means increased runoff during a storm and soils that dry out more quickly after a storm.

Save on fertilizer by getting your soil tested

Lawn impact - The truth is that you can't tell what nutrients your lawn needs just by looking at it. Yes, low nitrogen will make your grass look yellow, but so will an excess of nitrogen. What does grass look like when it is low in phosphorus? You can actually kill your grass with too much fertilizer or the wrong nutrients at the wrong time. If you want to feed you lawn well, you need to conduct a soil test, then follow its recommendations. Soil test kits can be purchased at many home improvement stores, or through Lake SWCD.

Wallet impact - A soil test costs between 10 and 15 dollars. About as much as a bag of fertilizer. However, that one-time expense could save you from needing to purchase fertilizer for three years. Or you might find out that you just need a \$4 bag of lime.

Environmental impact - Most fertilizers are "balanced" between nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. However, most lawns in northeast Ohio don't need equal amounts of these three nutrients. Many soils don't need supplemented with any nutrients at all. Others just need their pH altered to increase nutrient availability. Excess nutrients in soil don't stay there; they are carried away by rainfall in to streams, ponds, and shallow water tables. Once in the aquatic environment, the nutrients fertilize the algae, turning the water green. The agricultural industry has gotten a reputation for overuse of fertilizer over the last few decades, yet any successful farmer will tell you that they conduct a soil test before they calculate their fertilizer application rates. It can save them hundreds of dollars each application. Much of the excess phosphorus in Lake Erie runs off of lawns or comes from our wastewater treatment plants, not from farm land.

Save on your utility bill by reducing watering

Lawn impact - The first step in reducing your yard's thirst is to let it grow longer. Longer blades of grass help keep the sun from hitting the soil, and let the plant use water more efficiently. Taller grass also has deeper roots, so it can draw more water out of the soil. You can now change your watering regime; deep-rooted grasses don't need watered as much or as often.

Wallet impact - This will have a larger impact on your budget if you are irrigating with water from a municipal source. You are saving the rate per gallon times the number of gallons you use. For residents on well water, the savings will be seen on your electric bill - the cost of pumping water from your well.

Environmental impact - Most watering plans involve at least some overspray. This is the water that hits your driveway or your house and is carried away by the stormwater system. If you are using municipal water, it also contains various

chemicals that sanitize your water and make it taste better. Over watering also can lead to sediment and nutrient runoff. A healthy lawn can be allowed to go dormant in the hottest part of the summer. Even though it turns brown, it isn't actually dead. Stay off of it, and don't mow again until it greens up again. If you can't stand the thought of a temporarily brown yard, irrigate once a week if it hasn't rained in the last week. One deep watering per week will promote stronger root growth and improve drought tolerance.

Bonus - Drier lawns are less likely to have fungus issues, and drier soils are less prone to damage by compaction.

Save on landfill space and garbage fees by mulching your clippings

Lawn impact - Leaving your clippings on the lawn returns nutrients and moisture to the soil. If your soil has adequate amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, then the clippings are typically all the nutrients your grass needs. Despite years of oral tradition, clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup (over-fertilizing does).

Wallet impact - If you pay per bag, you will see a savings in your garbage fee. You can also reduce your fertilizer and watering requirements

Environmental impact - Collected clippings that are dumped on stream banks or blown into storm drains take nutrients with them and nourish ugly or harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie and inland ponds.



RESIDENT REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Lake County

Residents wishing to vote absentee by mail must request this absentee ballot application no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and the District office must receive the request no later than 5 days prior to the election. The election for Lake County SWCD will be held on April 13, 2012.

Residents wishing to vote absentee at the office must complete the resident request for absentee ballot form no earlier than 21 days prior to the election and no later than 12:00 noon on April 13, 2012.

I, _____, hereby apply for absentee voter ballot and registration envelope from the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

I am an eligible voter of the Lake County SWCD because I am 18 years old and reside within the District.

Signature

Date

Please mail absentee ballot to the following address (if applicable):

Resident Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

If requesting this ballot by mail, please submit this request form to:

**Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
125 E. Erie St
Painesville OH 44077**

Please Note: Submitted request forms for absentee ballots must contain original signature to be valid. Faxes will not be accepted.

Questions?

Contact Lake SWCD by phone at 440-350-2730



Recycled Paper

WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

Green grass grows all around version! What do you know about lawn care and its relationship with water quality?

1) The three primary macronutrients in soil are:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A) nickel, zinc, and carbon | B) nitrogen, potassium and nickel |
| C) nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium | D) phosphorus, potassium and potash |

2) An established lawn that is not watered usually needs fertilizer

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A) once a year, in the fall | B) once a month |
| C) once a year, in the spring | D) twice a year, fall and spring |

3) The most efficient way to fertilize your lawn is:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| A) with slow-release pellets | B) with rapid-release pellets |
| C) with liquid fertilizer | D) by leaving grass clippings on the lawn |

4) Your neighborhood, with it's rooftops, patios, driveways and streets, contributes ____ times as much water to your local stream as the wooded park down the street.

- | | |
|------|------|
| A) 2 | B) 3 |
| C) 4 | D) 5 |

5) Not only is there more water leaving a developed area, that water is also higher in:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| A) heavy metals | B) plant nutrients like nitrogen |
| C) temperature | D) sediment load |

Answers: 1) C, 2) C, 3) D, 4) D, 5) A, B, C and D

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

Phone: 440-350-2730

Fax: 440-350-2601

East End: 428-4348 ext. 2730

West End: 918-2730

1-800-899-LAKE ext 2730

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm

E-MAIL: SOIL@LAKECOUNTYOHIO.GOV

WEB SITE: WWW.LAKECOUNTYOHIO.GOV/SOIL

DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
CHAD EDGAR, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2032
BETH LANDERS, Coastal NPS Pollution Education Specialist	350-2033
MAURINE ORNDORFF, Arcola Creek Watershed Coordinator	350-5863
NRCS Field Office, Orwell	437-5888

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DICK BAKER (1998-2006, 2008), NORTH PERRY, CHAIR

SKIP DUGAN (2009-2011), PERRY, INCUMBENT

JEFF HYRNE (2010), MADISON TWP., VICE CHAIR, FISCAL AGENT

LARRY KLCO (2012), NORTH PERRY, TREASURER

BRAD SHAWHAN (2012), MENTOR, SECRETARY

MEMBER OF:

Lake County Farm Bureau

Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio

National Association of Conservation Districts

Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

The public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings, held the third Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald and on the Lake SWCD website. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.